



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Northern Division
6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4836
FAX 410-962-0693*

*Southern Division
400 United States Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1249*

*301-344-4433
301-344-4422
FAX 301-344-4516*

Please respond to: Northern Division

**March 21, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
Vickie E. LeDuc, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

ALLFIRST BANK ROBBER SENTENCED

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Michael Joseph Blottenberger, age 34, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced today by Chief Judge Benson E. Legg to 100 months incarceration followed by 3 years supervised release and ordered to make restitution to Allfirst bank in the amount of \$26, 224 in connection with the robbery of the Allfirst Bank in Pasadena, Maryland on February 20, 2002.

According to the statement of facts presented at the time of Blottenberger's guilty plea on September 27, 2002, the Allfirst Bank located at 8493 Ft. Smallwood Road, Pasadena, Maryland was robbed at approximately 9:42 a.m. by a male later determined to be Ryan Grimes. Wearing a ski mask and carrying a handgun, Grimes threatened the tellers. The tellers placed \$26,324 on their teller stations which Grimes grabbed. Upon running from the bank, Grimes jumped into a pickup truck operated by Blottenberger.

Blottenberger admitted to driving the get-away truck to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents investigating this matter. Blottenberger also advised the agents that an air pistol was used to

threaten the tellers and that he and Grimes split approximately \$24,000 taken in the bank robbery. Blottenberger's co-defendant Grimes entered a plea of guilty on January 24, 2003 to robbing the Allfirst Bank and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 6, 2003.

This case was investigated by the FBI and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher J. Romano.

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